MEGA SWAP- Lan/MegaMan.EXE TG FtM AR

In a not-so-distant future, there is a company called Transformania. Transformania's scientists figured out how to change both matter and mind. They could turn objects into almost anything under the sun and many things that previously only existed in imagination. The power to bend reality to such an extent was revolutionary, and the company quickly became one of the most prosperous in the world.

Before long, Transformania mastered the power to change living beings, up to and including humans. If one had the money, they could turn into whatever they wanted. But there was an odd side-effect to the transformations. If a person was transformed, they'd take on the mindset and memories of whatever they transformed into. Therefore, Transformania forced people to sign waiver after waiver before distributing any of their products.

Another reason for these waivers was due to people using the products to escape financial and legal trouble. After all, a tree could not be tried for murder. Nor could a tea kettle pay taxes. So many of the contracts included fine print stating that transformations could not be issued to people with criminal backgrounds or people who had debts to pay.

But people with debts to pay could rarely afford the ludicrous prices of the products in the first place.

Transformania was popular amongst the rich and famous, but that wasn't enough for them. There were others clamoring for transformations, many of whom were under twenty-one. Unfortunately for them, a person had to be at least twenty-one years of age in order to receive Transformania's services. There was a whole untapped market, but there was also a good chance that the products would be misused by said market. In addition, there was no telling how the hormonal bodies of teens would react to being transformed. Transformania, however, cared more about lining its pockets, so it came up with a compromise.

Transformania created a video game featuring every character they could nab the rights to. They called this game “Morfighters”. Using virtual reality, players could transform into any character of their choice and embark on adventures in a virtual world. The transformations would feel like real ones, but would not force players to transform permanently. The minute they turned the game off, they’d return to normal. It was perfectly safe, so no one could misuse it.

The idea worked perfectly, and Morfighters became an instant hit the second it was announced. Hardcore gamers pre-ordered it months in advance. It became impossible to purchase the game for a few weeks after its launch, for stores simply sold out of it quickly. Still, within hours of its release, hundreds of players were already hooked.

There was, however, a glitch in the game, a glitch purposefully planted by Transformania. Select people became the characters they were playing as. When they attempted to report it, Transformania locked them up for the purposes of study. This continued until some of the victims managed to escape and reported their findings.

It took a long while, but changes occurred at Transformania. People were fired left and right, while the whole company was restructured from the ground up. Many products- including Morfighters- were discontinued. Transformania’s stock plummeted, and the company was heading for bankruptcy. The higher-ups of the company needed to act fast in order to save it.

A fact that was of no help at all to Transformania was that many of the discontinued devices still remained, as two girls in the city of New York were about to discover.

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Lisa and Megan were twin sisters. They were the only children of Peter Clay, a high-ranking executive in Transformania. Both girls knew nothing but luxury, but when it was discovered that their father was heavily involved in the Morfighters scandal, he was one of many who lost his job.

Now, his two twenty-one-year-old daughters were in the process of clearing out his office. Both girls attended the same college out of state, but came back to New York to assist their father. After all, with their mother gone, he was the only family they had.

Lisa claimed- as twins often do- that she was the older one by a matter of minutes. Despite this, she was a little shorter than Megan. Both girls had the same blonde hair, green eyes and slim bodies. This is where the similarities ended. Megan was what you would consider a nerd, with the thickest, most bookish glasses it was possible to obtain. She dressed rather conservatively in comparison to her sister. While Lisa did not wear very revealing clothes, her outfits were more fashionable and flashy. Her hair was usually tied in a ponytail by a different color ribbon each day.

The office the two girls were working in was surprisingly small for someone who was as prestigious as their father. Most of the smaller contents in the office were in boxes, which were stacked all over the room. Lisa and Megan were using two boxes as makeshift chairs as they assessed the office.

“Let’s see. He said to take everything but the desk,” Megan said. “That belongs to the company.”

“Then we should get this stuff in the car and take it to his place,” Lisa said, getting up and grasping a box. “Ugh! Um, can you help, sis? This box is too heavy.”

“That’s because you over-packed it, moron,” Megan said with a roll of her eyes.

“I- I did not!” Lisa insisted. “There was just a lot of stuff in his desk.”

Megan walked over to the struggling Lisa and opened the box to reveal several projects their father had been working on before losing his job. She carefully removed a few to place in a lighter box when she noticed an old-school looking GameBoy. “What’s a portable gaming system doing in Dad’s office?” Megan asked.

“Oh, that?” Lisa asked, pointing to the device. “I’ve got no idea. It’s old. Maybe we can sell it on eBay and make a few bucks. Hell knows we’re gonna need extra money now.”

Megan inspected the GameBoy closer. The brick-like object had the Transformania logo in place of the words “Nintendo GAME BOY”. The pea-green screen was bigger and there was a black cartridge in the black that Megan could not remove. When she turned the game over to find out why, she found a note taped there.

Megan skimmed the whole note and turned pale. “Lisa,” she said nervously. “There’s something up with this game. We can’t sell it.”

“Why not?” Lisa asked.

Megan read the note in a hushed voice, as if speaking any louder would make something jump out of the little machine.

Prototype Device for Planned Morfighters Mobile
Due for Release in 2018
Morfighters Mobile is a mobile version of Morfighters. Select a character and play as them in an expansive world.
This device has not been completed and only has ten characters to play as.

“There was going to be a mobile version of the game?” Lisa wondered aloud. “That’s pretty cool.”

“But why would they make it on this weird doohickey and not just make an app?” Megan asked.

“Who cares? Let’s look at it!” Lisa chirped, snatching the device from Megan’s hands.

“Hey!” Megan shouted as her sister turned the game on.

“We’re only going to look,” Lisa said. “I know what happened with those people. They only mutated out of control when they played as an animal. As long as we choose a human character, we’ll be fine. We could be the only people to ever play this game. Heck, we’re the only people who know this game even exists. Think about how awesome that is!”

Megan sighed. “Yea, it’s awesome, I guess,” she said. “But I’m not going to join you. I’ll just watch. That way, if anything happens to you, I can go get help.”

“Fine then,” Lisa said with a disappointed pout.

Lisa turned her full attention to the game screen. It read “Select a Character” and displayed the promised ten. To Lisa’s disappointment, most were not human. “Pikachu, Kirby, Yoshi,” Lisa murmured. “Oh! MegaMan.EXE! I remember those games!”

Without thinking twice, she selected the NetNavi from the list of options. Mega Man pumped his fist, then faded into the background. When he completely disappeared, a pea-green light burst from the screen and struck Lisa in the chest.

"Lisa!" Megan screamed, but it was no use. Her sister cried out in agony as her body shattered into data, which was sucked into the game.

Megan grabbed the Morfighters Mobile game without a second thought. She did not see text scroll across the screen, followed by a Yes or No option. Megan accidentally pressed the A button and answered "Yes", sending a jolt of electricity through her body. She nearly dropped the game, but held on tightly. After all, she couldn't let it break with her sister still inside.

Megan got a better look at the screen, which now bore new text.

WELCOME TO MORFIGHTERS MOBILE
PLAYER ONE HAS CHOSEN MEGAMAN.EXE
PLAYER TWO HAS CHOSEN LAN HIKARI
PLAYERS WILL BECOME CHARACTERS AS THEY PLAY THE GAME
TO END THE GAME AND RETURN TO ORIGINAL FORMS, THE PLAYERS MUST COMPLETE THE QUEST

Megan's eyes practically bugged out of her skull. This wasn't merely a mobile port of the game. It was clearly Phase Two in the Morfighters master plan that wanted to study transformed young people. Instead of a headset simulating transformation, players would actually transform, and the only way back to normal was apparently to win. Who knew why this device was made when Transformania was planning on releasing it to the public?

But why did it say there was a second player who was playing as Lan? Only Lisa got sucked into the game.

Megan gasped in shock as she shrunk on the spot, her baggy sweatshirt and sweatpants growing even more baggy. Her eyes began to itch terribly. She rubbed at them, then caught her reflection in the game screen. It was blurry at first, but she quickly found out that she just had to remove her glasses, which she apparently no longer needed. Megan screamed to find dark brown anime-style eyes staring back at her.

"So I'm the one turning into Lan?" Megan asked. "Crap! I have to find some way to reverse this right now, before it's too late for both of us."

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Lisa groggily came to tinny, cheerful eight-bit music. The world around her was one-hundred percent pea green. The cartoon sky was pea-green, as were the cartoon roads under her feet.

Her now booted and very blue feet.

Lisa struggled to her feet and continued to study the boots in wonder. She was not pea-green, which made the blue almost disorienting to look at. The boots were heavy and clunky-looking, which made Lisa's first few steps uneasy. With each step, she lost height. Something cold was forming around her lower arms. Looking down, she

saw blue metal creeping down them, forming a set of gloves that were equally blue and equally clunky.

The changes stopped as suddenly as they started. As a daughter of a Trasformania executive, Lisa went through hundreds of temporary transformations- an opportunity her sister repeatedly declined. Because of her experience, she didn't panic like most people would. Instead, she stood there, studying herself and trying to find her Mega Buster until she heard a scream.

"Megan?" Lisa asked. She looked up to find the real world in a small window of sorts in the sky. In it, Megan was mumbling about something. Her glasses were missing and her eyes were now dark brown. "Megan!" Lisa repeated, louder than before.

"Lisa? Lisa?" Megan cried out, her voice trembling.

"I'm okay!" Lisa shouted, waving her hand with some difficulty.

"Oh, thank God," Megan said. "Thank God. Look, I hit some button and now I'm turning into Lan. The only way for us to turn back is to beat the game, whatever that means."

"Can't you get someone who still works here to help?" Lisa asked.

"And let them know we were monkeying around with this thing?" Megan snapped. "No way."

"But I was the only one monkeying around with it. Not you," Lisa said sadly.

"Damn right about tha-" Megan began. Suddenly, she winced. "Ugh. Something...happening...down below...ouch!" she cried.

"What happened?" Lisa asked.

There was a brief pause as Megan inspected herself. "Why, my dear bubble-brained sister," she said in a mockingly sweet voice. "I do believe I've grown a penis."

"Oh," Lisa said.

"Oh? That's all you have? Friggen' 'oh'?" Megan shouted angrily.

"Hey, my friends and I turn into boys all the time," Lisa said with a shrug. "It's a little weird, but-"

"But I haven't transformed ever! In! My life!" Megan roared. "I can't just brush off suddenly growing a penis like it's nothing! I don't care how many times you've swapped genders with your buddies." She sighed in aggravation. "Just work with me here. We need to figure out how to beat his game and go back to normal."

Lisa was about to say something when a small, round object struck her in the head. She rubbed the place where she was struck and turned around to find three Mettaurs leering up at her, pickaxes at the ready. More text arrived with them.

CHALLENGE 1- DEFEAT ALL ENEMIES
TIME LIMIT- TWO MINUTES

The text vanished as the Mettaurs charged at Lisa. Lisa screamed and tried to activate her Mega Buster by wildly shaking her arms. When it didn't come, she ran blindly from the Mettaurs, who were happily spitting bullets at her in the way Mettaurs do.

"What the hell are you doing?" Megan hissed. "Didn't you see what the game said? Kick their asses for me!"

“Uh, I would if I had the Mega Buster thing!” Lisa replied. “But I don’t. So I’m just going to run away!”

Megan sighed and slumped against the desk. She wanted to run off and tell someone- anyone- what was happening. But she feared getting in bigger trouble if someone else found out they had the game.

The game began to beep shrilly, waking Megan from her stupor. She looked down at the screen to see an exhausted Lisa and more text.

CHALLENGE 1- FAILED TRANSFORMATION PROCEEDING

“What the fu-” Megan began, but a jolt of electricity wracked her body. From the way Lisa was spasming, she guessed that her sister was changing as well.

Lisa’s stylish clothes were replaced by a blue body suit as her breasts disappeared. There were lighter blue patterns on it that made it look like something out of the Tron movies. With a gasp, Lisa winced and looked down. At first, Megan thought she had a penis as well, but Lisa cried out, “There’s nothing there! Nothing at all! Oh my God, I’ve never been genderless before!”

Megan was about to say something, but her breasts were in the process of disappearing. A blue bandanna appeared around her forehead with an emblem both girls recognized. They both played the Battle Network games when they were younger, usually picking different versions just to brag about which version was better when the difference was minimal. The emblem was associated with SciLab- and their father.

“No,” Megan muttered. Their father was loosing his job. They were not the Hikari twins. She had to remember.

The changes finally pulled to a stop, with Lisa still complaining and Megan totally frozen. A new “challenge” popped up on the screen.

CHALLENGE 2- JACK IN TO A COMPUTER TIME LIMIT- TEN MINUTES

A cord with a USB on the end popped out of the GameBoy, which was starting to turn blue in color. Megan numbly noticed that the machine was turning itself into Lan’s PET. It was erasing itself. “Good riddance,” Megan mumbled.

“Um, how are we supposed to fulfill the challenge?” Lisa asked. “I mean, I’m stuck in here and-”

“‘And’ you do nothing,” Megan finished. “I’m gonna finish this one. It sucks that we already packed Dad’s computer. That means we need to go-” she gulped “-out there.”

“What’s wrong with ‘out there’?” Lisa questioned.

Megan was about to explain, but something buzzed within her. She suddenly forgot why “out there” was so terrible. “Nothing, nothing,” she said. “I’m not scared of ‘out there’. I’m gonna complete this quest.”

Putting the GameBoy in her pocket, Megan opened the door and stormed out. The hallway was plain and empty, but she still had enough “Megan” in her to remember

the map. She walked two doors down, then opened the door to her immediate left, which led to a computer room.

The room itself was lined with computers on desks. Megan stuck her tongue out. It reminded her too much of school! She shook her head quickly. That was a Lan thought, not a Megan thought. The Lan thoughts were going to make her forget what she was doing. Then no one could help her or her idiot sister.

Sneaking up to a computer, she turned it on to find it locked with a password. Thinking that didn't matter, she plugged the USB into the jack-in port- er, USB slot.

CHALLENGE 2- JACK IN TO A COMPUTER
TIME LIMIT- SIX MINUTES
ERROR- COMPUTER NOT VALID. PLEASE LOG IN.

"Darn," Megan muttered. She fumbled with the password, guessing everything from "transformania" to "123456", but the computer refused to turn on. "Come on, stupid," Megan muttered under her breath.

On the Lisa side of things, she was still too stunned about the loss of her gender to be of much help. On one hand, it made sense because she was a NetNavi, and therefore a computer program. On the other hand, she remembered not being data. She remembered being human. Strangely, she remembered being male, too. Then why was his name "Lisa"? Why was he so comfortable with the switch from thinking of himself as girl to thinking of himself as a boy? Was he Lisa or Hub or both?

"La- Megan!" Lisa cried out. "Are you done yet?"

The sound of her brother's voice snapped Megan awake. "Wait a second," she said. "I don't have a- oh, forget it. The computer's password protected and I can't get in."

"Do you need to?" Lisa asked.

"Yes!" Megan roared.

The door behind the duo opened, causing them both to freeze up. A bored-looking intern walked into the room. Checking the time limit and finding it was at one minute, Megan asked, "Excuse me, mister? Can you help? I need to get on the computer."

"These computers are for staff only," the intern mumbled. "Not for you to play with ki- ki- ki-"

The intern's eyes bugged open when he saw the half-transformed girl before him. He screamed "I gotta get security!" and rushed out of the room.

To make matters worse, the shrill beep returned.

CHALLENGE 2- FAILED
TRANSFORMATION PROCEEDING

Megan wanted to scream. Lisa was already screaming, his voice growing more masculine mid-yell. His eyes grew as her body shrunk, leaving the bodysuit baggy temporarily before it readjusted itself to his new size. Yellow armor settled in on his shoulders.

Meanwhile, Megan now had Lan's clothing instead of her own. A baggy white t-shirt came first, followed by an orange vest and black shorts. Her shoes became Lan's sneakers while the GameBoy snuck even closer to PET. The bottom of the device turned round as the whole thing turned bright blue with yellow patterns and the SciLab emblem. The only difference was that the word "PET" was replaced by "TFM" and its screen was still pea green.

Megan was surprisingly happy that the GameBoy was turning into a PET. That way, it would erase the evidence that it had ever been a GameBoy, though she didn't know why its GameBoy form was bad. He- not she, he- only knew that the PET was good.

"No, stop," Megan muttered to himself. "Those are Lan thoughts." He couldn't remember why the Lan thoughts were bad. Did it have something to do with the GameBoy? Whatever it was, he knew he had to fight the Lan thoughts.

And yet, he couldn't fight them, because he *was* the Lan thoughts, and they were him. But there were other thoughts- thoughts of a girl, and they were also him. The thoughts of the girl were strange, but he tried to hold on to them. He couldn't let go. Otherwise, something bad would happen to his brother.

But he couldn't remember what.

"Me- Lan!" a familiar voice cried out from his PET. "There's another challenge!"

CHALLENGE 3- RETURN THE PET TO A STAFF MEMBER AT TRANSFORMANIA
TIME LIMIT- ONE MINUTE

Something about this seemed fishy. It was his PET. It had always been his PET. And it contained his best friend and brother, MegaMan.EXE. But at the same time, the voice of the girl was in the back of his mind and still in his throat. "Did you see the challenge?" he asked, trying to shake off the Lan thoughts.

"Yea," MegaMan replied. "Should we do it?"

"No! I don't want to lose you!" Lan shouted. "We should get out of this place. We need to leave before that guy comes back."

Lan bolted down the hallway, searching for some kind of escape. His hair seemed a bit long, but maybe that had to do with the girl. He could barely remember her name- Marlene? Mayl? Megan. It was Megan. His name was Megan. At least, it used to be.

As confusing as things were for the boy who used to be Megan, the boy who used to be Lisa was having it worse. Three identities dueled within her- the NetNavi she was now, the boy she should have been and the girl she once was. It made her head hurt and her stomach churn. She wasn't even standing anymore. She just lay on the ground, weak and defenseless.

Hopefully, Lan could help her.

CHALLENGE 3- FAILED
TRANSFORMATION COMPLETING

Lan fell to his knees, the PET dropping out of his hands and skidding down the hall. His hair became shorter and turned brown, spiking up messily in every direction. What little part of him remained without outlines and bright colors immediately turned animated. Meanwhile, MegaMan felt a new heaviness on his head as his helmet came back. His hair grew shorter as well, spiking up at the back of her neck and turning a bluish black color. His eyes widened, becoming green.

Even the environment around MegaMan was morphing. No longer was it pea green. It was mostly blue, but MegaMan could see a few icons floating around in other colors. As Lan chased the PET down the hall, he saw it make its final metamorphosis, with the “TFM” becoming “PET” and the SciLab logo finally coming into existence.

A hoof came down on top of the PET, stopping its journey across the slick floor. The creature before Lan was half man and half bull, with grey fur and a hideously angry expression. Behind it cowered the intern, who pointed and cried out, “There he is! That’s the kid! I don’t know how he got here! We don’t do fictional character transformations anymore! Not after the Morfighters incident! If this thing caused the transformation, we have to destroy it!”

“Hey!” Lan cried. “Give me back my PET!”

The bull-man blinked, then looked down at the blue machine beneath its foot. It began to step on it, slowly crushing the device.

“No! Stop!” Lan roared, charging at the bull-man.

With a simple shove, the minotaur knocked the wind out of Lan, sending the boy flying to the ground. With this done, it began to crush the PET again, only for a new voice to shout, “Stop!”

A man in dirty blond hair and messy clothes ran up to the minotaur and the intern. He stared them down with green eyes. “Dr. Peter Clay-” the intern began, but was silenced with a harsh glare.

Peter carefully extracted the PET from beneath the minotaur’s foot and gave it back to Lan. “MegaMan! Are you okay?” Lan asked.

“Fine,” came the weak reply from behind the screen.

“I may no longer work here, but I can’t let you kill one of my daughters,” Peter said.

“Daughters?” Lan asked, blinking owlishly.

“I went to check on my daughters- who were packing up my office- and I found not only them missing, but the Morfighters Mobile project we were working on. It was a prototype that had the ability to change memories and personalities. We intended it to be temporary, but it turned out to be permanent. You remember it, don’t you?”

“Yes,” the intern said. “We were trying to fix that glitch, but then the whole scandal happened and it got shelved.”

“And with both it and my daughters missing from my office, I could only come to one conclusion,” Peter said, staring at Lan with a glare that would make even a snake jump.

“I’m sorry, mister,” Lan said nervously. “Actually, I kind of don’t know where I am right now. This doesn’t look like SciLab. But I sure am hungry-”

Lan was interrupted with, “Are you Lisa or Megan?”

The names seemed familiar, but Lan had trouble figuring out which was associated with him, and why. “I don’t know,” he said, looking down at his shoes. The

pieces slowly came together in his mind. “Wait. I was one of your daughters? But how can that be?”

“You were transformed. It’s just what we do at this company,” Peter replied. “We turn people into other people or sometimes animals or creatures of myth. But fictional characters like you? We’re not allowed to do that anymore.”

“Fictional?” Lan croaked. “You mean I’m not real?”

MegaMan- who was too dazed from almost being crushed up until this point- noticed Lan’s distress. Being a NetNavi, he took the news of his nonexistence much easier. “Lan, it’s going to be okay,” he assured. “We’ll find Dad and he’ll-”

“I am your father. Whatever father you’re thinking of does not exist,” Peter said coldly.

“Can’t I do anything to make your daughters come back?” Lan asked.

“I’m afraid not,” Peter replied. “Even if there was a way, you’d die in the process.”

All of the information Lan learned was too much. He collapsed at Peter’s feet, unconscious. “Lan!” MegaMan cried as his PET hit the floor again, but Peter was able to grab it before it went anywhere. Putting the PET in his pocket, he picked Lan up in his arms.

“Tell Mr. Pitcher I’ll need another day to load out of here due to an accident,” he said to the intern.

“Should I tell him what the accident was?” the intern asked nervously.

“It doesn’t matter if you do or don’t,” Peter replied. “I’m already fired anyway.”

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For whatever reason, the intern decided to tell Mr. Pitcher what transpired. Enraged that the Morfighters Mobile was gone but unable to do much about it now, he banned Peter and his children from going anywhere near a Transformania building. This resulted in Peter losing the stuff his daughters were working so hard to pack up, but it was alright. That was an old life, and he was starting again.

The unique transformation of Lisa made it easy to hide “her” in one’s pocket. Lan, however, did not want to be separated from MegaMan. Peter couldn’t get near the PET. For a few days, Peter couldn’t even get near Lan. The boy was still very upset and hid in his room. Whether this was because he was angry, guilty or merely avoiding Peter was unclear.

It took a long time to re-adjust from having two college-age daughters to having two sons who were far younger, one of whom was virtual. The family was far from happy, not to mention dirt-poor because Peter was still trying to find another job. He did eventually find an office position, but it didn’t pay nearly as much as his old job. It did succeed in putting bread on the table, which was important because Lan was nearly always hungry.

Three years passed, but Lan showed no signs of getting any older. He did, however, slowly warm up to Peter, but never called him “Dad”. That title was reserved for someone else, someone who didn’t exist. But- though he couldn’t see Peter as his father- Peter still saw Lan as his son. Even MegaMan- who had no physical body- was part of his family.

They would always be a family, no matter what happened.